

From: [POULSEN Mike](#)
To: [Dan Phalen/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Elizabeth Allen/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Deb Yamamoto/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Rene Fuentes/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Joe Goulet/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Lori Cora/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Sean Sheldrake/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Burt Shephard/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Kristine Koch/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [FARRER David.G](#); [Richard Kauffman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [ANDERSON Jim M](#); [BISHOP Karen](#); [danab.marcia@deq.state](#); [MCCLINCY Matt](#)
Cc: [Todd HUDSON](#)
Subject: RE: PLEASE HELP - Five minute review request - Portland Harbor Risk Confusion
Date: 08/03/2011 01:56 PM

Dan -

This sounded a bit urgent, so I will give you my quick review. I think it may help to start with the similarities and then make a clearer distinction between EPA and ATSDR risk assessments. They both identify likely exposure pathways and potentially exposed populations. They both characterize risk.

Differences -

ATSDR provides an assessment of risk independent of EPA.

ATSDR can include non-chemical risks, including physical and biological. EPA sticks to chemical risk.

ATSDR can balance risks and benefits. EPA does not.

The different agencies have different criteria for acceptable risk, which may result in different conclusions.

EPA evaluates ecological risks in addition to human health risks.

- Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Phalen [mailto:Phalen.Dan@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 1:12 PM

To: allen.elizabeth@epa.gov; Chip.Humphrey@epa.gov; Dan.Phalen@epa.gov; Deb.Yamamoto@epa.gov; fuentes.rene@epa.gov; Joe.Goulet@epa.gov; Lori.Cora@epa.gov; Sean.Sheldrake@epa.gov; Shephard.Burt@epa.gov; Kristine.Koch@epa.gov; FARRER.David.G@epa.gov; Richard.Kauffman@epa.gov; ANDERSON.Jim.M@epa.gov; BISHOP.Karen@epa.gov; danab.marcia@deq.state; POULSEN.Mike@epa.gov; MCCLINCY.Matt@epa.gov

Subject: PLEASE HELP - Five minute review request - Portland Harbor Risk Confusion

Importance: High

This email is going out to EPA's internal PH Team, as well as key folks at DEQ, OHA and ATSDR.

The review shouldn't take more than 5 minutes of your time. We need a quick turn around on this in anticipation of ATSDRs approval of the final PHA and pending revisions to a number of fact sheets.

There has been considerable confusion among the public, the media and others about the differences between Public Health Assessments and Risk Assessments. We need a very simple and brief explanation to use, when appropriate, on Portland Harbor fact sheets to help the public understand the differences and to ensure that we all have a consistent message that we have agreed to in advance.

The attached text box has been reviewed and improved by several of you, but it needs a bit further vetting to make sure it is consistent with the perspectives of the various agencies and disciplines involved.

Please review this at your earliest convenience and return any comments you may have to me via email. Once we come to a general consensus on the language internally (within EPA, DEQ, OHA, and ATSDR) I will then ensure that the LWG and CAG adopt the same language and descriptions in their presentation and fact sheets.

(See attached file: DRAFT-Risk_Assessment_Comparison_Text_Box-V2.docx)

Thanks in advance...

Dan

Dan Phalen - Environmental Education & Community Involvement - US EPA, Region 10 - 206-553-8578

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm."

Henry David Thoreau